

NEC

ACTION REPORT

National Economic Council, Inc., 7501 Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.

No. 11

NEC IN THICK OF STRUGGLE AGAINST SOCIALIST BILLS

Fights in Washington for People's Interest in Maintaining Free Economy

Ever since collectivist forces in the U.S.A. began to hail results of the November elections as a mandate for a renewed Socialist New Deal, NEC has been busy working to foil such minority attempts to subvert the American free economy.

Soon after election, in analyzing what actually happened (Council Letter No. 203), NEC showed the falsity of the collectivist "mandate" claim. Thereupon it prepared to fight every socialist-slanted measure so far as resources enabled. Upon the opening of the 81st Congress, NEC went into action in Washington. Here is brief report of activity to date:

Labor Legislation

Brief in opposition to repeal of Taft-Hartley Law presented to Senate Committee on Labor & Public Welfare by Dr. H. M. Griffith of NEC staff. Essence of statement: "The Taft-Hartley Law is *not* unfair to the wage-earner. It gives sorely-needed protection to the wage-earner against exploitation . . . by the barons of organized labor. . . . It is a charter of liberty for the American wage-earner. . . . The representation that it is a 'slave labor law' is pure invention, and every informed, intelligent person knows it."

NEC has asked also to be heard on labor-management legislation by House Committee on Education & Labor.

Reciprocal Trade Agreements

The new reciprocal trade agreements legislation, which has now been enacted, was opposed by NEC President Merwin K. Hart in statement to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Hart maintained that the bills, in taking tariff-making out of the hands of Congress and giving it all to the President, was in effect a subversion of our

form of Government. "We believe," he asserted, "that in the interest of the people the Congress should take back many of the powers previously handed over to the executive, rather than further surrender powers placed by the Constitution in the control of Congress."

Housing

NEC will throw its main weight in housing question into hearings to be held by House Committee on Banking & Currency. It will be represented there by veteran Washington figure Harry S. Barger, former technical adviser to various Congressional committees, an addition to NEC staff since Jan. 1. Few men come even close to matching Barger's thorough knowledge of private and public housing facts.

Position of NEC on public housing is, of course, unchanged. On principle we are against it as an improper exercise of Government power to "redistribute" the hard-earned wealth of the people. Public housing opens door to political favoritism and is wastefully extravagant.

European Recovery Plan

It has long been contention of NEC that American public has been materially and sadly deceived as to real nature and implications, as well as results, of so-called "Marshall Plan." Now, just when almost every informed person privately admits that the whole ramshackle fabric is coming apart at the seams, the public is being sold idea that it is a great success—and publicity to that effect will probably continue to pour out until appropriations have been voted.

NEC made two appearances on ECA-ERP. On February 17, case was presented to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations by Dr. Griffith and on Feb. 22, NEC President Hart appeared before House Committee. Both presentations were essentially same: ERP, as

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CECIL PALMER, NOTED BRITON, IN U. S. FOR NEC

Makes Deep Impression On Legislators, Public

As part of its campaign to ward off the "creeping Socialism" now threatening the U.S.A., NEC has brought from England a distinguished Briton to tell Americans what they face if we follow the Socialist road.

Cecil Palmer, famed in his own country as publisher, author, speaker and journalist, has already made a deep impression upon American thinking. He will remain here some three months, and will speak in many American cities from coast to coast under auspices of NEC.

Palmer's American debut was made before a gathering of a hundred outstanding figures in public life, industry and business at a dinner in his honor in New York's University Club on February 24. Telling of the plight of Britain under Socialism, he said:

Britain Under Socialism

"On Dec. 8, 1947, we sank deeper into serfdom than any time for seven hundred years. Under the infamous 'Control of Engagements Order,' we abandoned Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights and Habeas Corpus. . . . On that black day every citizen of Great Britain between the ages of sixteen and fifty became subject to industrial conscription. All men and women, unless in an exempted category, can be and are *directed* to work under the Order. For the first time in our long history, we have industrial conscription in peacetime."

In Washington, Palmer addressed numbers of Senators and Representatives in private gatherings upon three separate occasions. One was a dinner given by an ex-Senator, attended by about one-third of Senate and a score of Congressmen. All told, Palmer spoke to about one-third of total members of

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CECIL PALMER—(Concl'd.)

the House and Senate, who listened with great attention and plied him with questions afterward. In two such instances, the query and answer period lasted until past midnight. Some shrewd observers said that they noticed a perceptible change in the Washington atmosphere following his visit. Said one Senator afterward:

One Senator's Opinion

"Cecil Palmer's remarkable factual recital of what Socialism has done to England should make all Americans 'stop, look and listen,' before they pursue further the principles and political hypocrisy which brought England to its knees. Cecil Palmer's recital of what Socialism has done to England should bind together all patriotic free men in America to save our unthinking people from the disaster of serfdom."

Observed a member of the House:

"I wish we could have a score of Englishmen like Cecil Palmer going from one end of our country to the other to expose the fraud—the exploitation of one group in favor of another—the downright collapse of socialist government, especially as they find it in England. It might wake us up to the fact that we have got a big dose of socialism ourselves."

"Mr. Palmer makes it perfectly clear that there is no 50-50 or even 10-90 relationship possible between socialism and a free country. One must utterly destroy the other. . . ."

As soon as NEC let it be known that it was bringing Palmer to the USA, its Speakers' Bureau began to be swamped with requests for him. His itinerary calls for travel to the Pacific Coast and to the South, as well as numerous points in the East and Mid-West. Some of his speeches will be open to the public, others are under auspices of local membership groups, such as Chambers of Commerce. Those who wish to know whether he will come to their communities are invited to inquire of NEC's New York office.

Significance

Everywhere, American citizens, rudely awakened by the Socialist aftermath of last November's elections, are asking how they can make their influence

felt to counteract the "mandate" for Socialism which so many powerful influences in Washington claim has been given to Congress. NEC's presentation of Cecil Palmer furnished at least a partial answer to this problem. His effect in Washington has been profound. And the interest already being stirred up in his travels among opinion-shaping groups and the public generally is bound to be reflected in constituency influence on legislation.

Palmer has already spoken over one national radio hookup—ABC—on Sunday, Feb. 27. Arrangements are being negotiated for him to be heard over many other radio outlets, blanketing the country.

NEC FIGHT—(Concluded)

at present set up, is subsidizing European Socialism, is inconsequential factor in "stopping Communism," is having no permanent effect on European economy since it is preserving an unsound economic situation and not getting at roots, is wasting hard-earned tax money of American taxpayers, is imperiling living standard of the U.S.A., is naive in imagining that friendship can be purchased, and is almost surely unconstitutional.

Most of all NEC opposed ERP because it is taking private enterprise dollars and subsidizing Socialism, especially in Britain. In any event, a condition should be attached to any future ERP appropriations that no beneficiary nation shall make any further extension of Socialism. In particular, Britain should abandon nationalization of iron and steel.

Representations have already been made to Appropriations Committees of both Houses, and when bills reach those committees, NEC will renew its efforts upon behalf of American taxpayers there.

Wages and Hours

The so-called minimum wage proposals, which under the guise of humanitarianism would give Government stranglehold over business, throw thousands of small enterprises into bankruptcy, and actually operate to lower the aggregate national wage, was opposed before the House Committee on Education & Labor on Feb. 8, by Dr. Griffith.

Charging that the bill "was based upon bad economics," he said that further "the extension of Federal power . . . is subversive of our constitutional system, and is part of a design by which a transformation of our con-

stitutional system is being attempted." Thereafter he proceeded by evidence to prove both assertions.

At presstime, latest private advices indicate that the bill at least in original form, may be a dead pigeon. If it gets to Senate, NEC will fight it there.

Other Pending Measures

NEC has applied to be heard on the following, on which hearings have already begun or are shortly scheduled:

1. Extensions of Social Security—House.
2. Farm Price Supports and Subsidies—House.
3. Rent Control—Senate.
4. "Economic Stability" (Price & Wage Controls)—Senate.
5. Taft-Hartley Law revision—House.

Other measures upon which NEC has requested to appear, and for which hearings may shortly be announced are:

1. Political Medicine (Compulsory Health Insurance)—House & Senate.
2. Communist Control Bills—House & Senate.
3. Federal "Aid" to Education—House & Senate.
4. Giving Tidelands Back to States—House.
5. Prohibition of Matter "Defaming" Races & Religions—House.
6. Extension of "Public Welfare" Grants—House.
7. Civil Rights (FEPC)—House & Senate.

In addition, NEC is keeping close watch for moves to ratify the ILO "Right to Organize Convention, 1948," the ILO "Employment Service Convention," the Charter of the International Trade Organization, and so-called UN "International Bill of Rights." When these are brought up, NEC will swing into action.

There was little doubt in the minds of observers that vigorous efforts of NEC all along line were hardly matched by any other group fighting socialist legislation in principle. Not a few have expressed opinion that NEC, in effectiveness, is second to none.

Only fly in NEC's ointment: in this great battle against vast odds, NEC needs more money. Supporters have been generous, but if the fight is to be carried on with increased vigor and effectiveness, more will be needed from old supporters and new supporters must be recruited, too. NEC needs both hands for fighting—wisely wishes it did not have to use one hand for fighting and the other for gathering in the "shreds of war."

Action Report

is published from time to time to keep NEC's constituency informed about its activities. Two copies free on request, 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.